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Additional quarantine regulations on account of plague at Cape Town.

BERLIN, GERMANY, March 9, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on account of the appearance of the plague at Cape Town, South Africa, the German Government has proclaimed the following additional quarantine regulations:

1. The import and transportation through the country of body linen, old and worn clothing, used bedclothing, and old rags of every kind from Cape Town and the Colony of Natal is forbidden.
2. Upon body linen, bedclothing, and wearing apparel, which travelers carry with them for their use, or which as household goods are imported, the prohibition under No. 1 is not applied. The permission for its importation, however, can be made dependent upon a previous disinfection.
3. The imperial chancellor is authorized to permit exceptions from the prohibition provided the requisite precautionary measures are fulfilled.

Respectfully,

J. B. GREENE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.**Plague and cholera in various countries.*

BERLIN, GERMANY, March 9, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following information obtained from the imperial health office:

Plague.

RUSSIA.—According to a notice published by the plague commission on February 21, the military cordon around the district of Karakut in the Kirgisen Steppe was abolished on February 17, and the whole south-eastern territory of the Russian Empire is claimed to be free from infection.

According to official publications there have occurred in the two districts of Tekebai-Tubek and Merek since the outbreak of the plague up to January 24, in all 136 cases, of which 134 terminated fatally. Since the recovery of the last patient on January 25 the infected dwellings have been cleansed, and on February 8 the cordon around these districts was also discontinued.

BRITISH EAST INDIA.—On January 28 a case of plague was reported at Karachi which has for several months been regarded as free from infection. According to a communication of February 18 the disease is reported to be spreading.

In the Presidency of Bombay there occurred during the week ended February 1, 1,251 fresh cases and 979 deaths of plague. That is to say, a considerable increase over the foregoing week.

In the city of Bombay there occurred during the week ended February 2, 747 fresh plague cases (232 more than during the previous week) and 636 deaths proved to be due to plague. Of the total number 1,720 registered deaths during the week, there were including those designated as "suspected" plague, 1,076 deaths ascribed to plague (324 more than in the previous week).

RÉUNION.—From February 1 to February 16, 7 fresh plague cases occurred on the island, of which 5 terminated fatally.

ARGENTINA.—The Argentine newspapers report that on January 18, 3 suspected plague cases had occurred at San Nicolas, of which 2 ended in death. Furthermore, it is claimed that numerous dead rats have been

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found in the warehouse, the workmen of which were the first to fall sick. Up till January 18, the Government had not acknowledged that the plague had broken out in San Nicolas.

QUEENSLAND.—According to the reports of the central sanitary authorities no fresh cases of plague had occurred in the colony between December 16 and January 5, except the fatal case in Rockhampton already reported. No more plague bacilli have been found in the numerous rats examined.

On March 2 a fresh case of plague was reported in Brisbane.

Cholera.

BRITISH INDIA.—In Calcutta 13 persons have died of cholera during the period from January 27 to February 2.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

No quarantinable disease present—A peculiar disease of the scalp.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, February 26, 1901.

SIR: I am glad to be able to report that no case of plague has occurred in Japan proper since the date of my last return on the subject, February 19, nor is any epidemic of other quarantinable disease present in the Empire.

Within a few weeks a peculiar disease of the hair has appeared in the country, which, first noticed in Osaka, has since been spreading rapidly throughout a considerable part of central Japan. It is intensely contagious, its dissemination seeming to be due to the native barbers, and, in a few days, produces total baldness, whether permanent in character or not remains to be seen. Investigations as to the nature of the disease are now in progress and I hope soon to be able to report more fully upon this malady, which, though not of the gravity of the ordinary quarantinable diseases, is certainly both interesting and important. The number of victims is already great and cases are constantly being reported from all the larger towns in communication with Osaka.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.